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January 5, 2010

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Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: GN Docket No. 09-191

December 21, 2009

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners:

No single innovation has so profoundly impacted education as has the broadband internet. Broadband internet puts the world at student's finger tips, opening their eyes and minds to an infinite number of possibilities and opportunities.

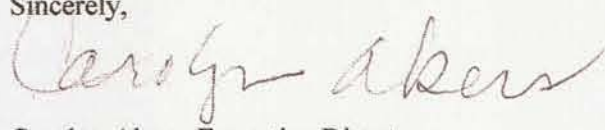
Unfortunately, the Federal Communications Commission is placing a well functioning internet at risk by adding more untested principles to its Internet Policy Statement and proposing to turn these principles into hard and fast rules. If these changes take place, will there be any assurance that students will be able to access a well managed internet at home as well as in the classroom? This is a key question the Mobile Area Education Foundation would like to have answered before any changes are even considered.

As you may already know, the Mobile Area Education Foundation (MAEF) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving our local public schools. Our foundation has served as an advocate and activist for public schools in the Mobile community for the last ten years. Our mission is to build community responsibility for improving public education outcomes in Mobile County.

As a zealous advocate and activist for public schools we are especially concerned about the unintended consequences that will surely follow the imposition of new rules governing the internet. As far as we can tell, the only problem with the internet is that it is not universally available and affordable, thus not all students in the Mobile area are able to access it.

I urge you to consider a continued quest to develop a National Broadband Plan that addresses access and affordability. Both represent the real challenges facing students of Mobile County and Americans everywhere.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Carolyn Akers". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Carolyn" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Akers".

Carolyn Akers, Executive Director